

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 EA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01 IO-10

H-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

FDRE-00 ISO-00 /083 W

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P 281115Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0402

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0502

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, QA

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES: APPROACH TO
GOVERNMENT OF QATAR

REF: STATE 97854

1. SINCE AMIR AILING, ON APRIL 28, IN RESPONSE REFTEL, I
MET WITH ISSA AL KAWARI, GOVT OF QATAR MINISTER OF INFORMATION
WHO IS ALSO AMIR'S CHEF DE CABINET AND FASTEST CHANNEL TO
HIM, ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF GOQ'S ACCEPTING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

2. I OUTLINED MAGNITUDE OF US EFFORTS, STRESSED HUMANITARIAN
ASPECTS AND OBLIGATION OF WORLD COMMUNITY TO RESPOND TO
SITUATION. I ALSO NOTED GOQ'S STAUNCH ANTI-COMMUNISM, QATAR'S
CRITICAL NEED FOR ALL KINDS OF MANPOWER, AND POSSIBILITY THAT
THERE MAY BE VIETNAMESE MUSLIMS FOR WHOM GOQ MIGHT WISH TO
MAKE GESTURE.

3. KAWARI REPLIED THAT HE WOULD CONVEY US APPEAL TO AMIR AND
HOPED TO HAVE SOME REACTION FROM HIM IN NEXT DAY OR TWO. HE
SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT VENTURE PREDICTION ON AMIR'S
REACTION EXCEPT THAT AMIR WOULD REQUIRE MUCH MORE INFORMATION
ON NUMBERS (I TOLD HIM WE WOULD HOPE THAT GOQ COULD TAKE MINIMUM
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OF 100), FAMILY STATUS, WHETHER REFUGEES TO BE TEMPORARY OR

PERMANENT RESIDENTS, AVAILABLE SKILLS, ETC. I TOLD KAWARI THAT IT WAS MY JUDGMENT THAT IF GOQ COULD AGREE IN PRINCIPLE SOONEST TO ACCEPT SOME VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, WE COULD THEN PROVIDE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION, ALTHOUGH I WOULD SEEK INFORMATION TO ANSWER SOME OF QUESTIONS HE RAISED IN MEANTIME.

4. COMMENT: FRANKLY, I AM SKEPTICAL THAT GOQ WILL POSITIVELY RESPOND TO US APPEAL SINCE IT GENERALLY VIEWS, AT LEAST THIS ASPECT OF VIETNAMESE SITUATION, AS EXOTIC AND DISTANT PROBLEM WITH WHICH IT DOES NOT WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED. ASSISTANCE TO MUSLIM VIETNAMESE REFUGEES (ARE THERE ANY?) IS AN ANGLE. IF WE CAN PROVIDE EVEN GENERAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED BY KAWARI, THIS TOO MIGHT BE HELPFUL.
PAGANELLI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DOHA00502
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750148-0202
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750418/aaaaaqdj.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 97854
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES: APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT OF QATAR
TAGS: AEMR, QA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006